

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

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1 1. A computer-implemented method of accessing information  
2 from a collection of data comprising:

3 receiving a query;

4 generating an inverse index of the collection of  
5 data; and

6 generating results to the query in conjunction with  
7 the inverse index.

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1 2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1 wherein  
2 generating the inverse index comprises:

3 storing a canonical non-terminal representation of  
4 the data in the inverse index.

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1 3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2 wherein  
2 generating the inverse index further comprises:

3 storing hierarchical information generated from the  
4 collection of data;

5 applying a parser and grammar rules to the  
6 collection of data to produce a canonical non-terminal  
7 representation of the data.

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1 4. The computer-implemented method of claim 3 wherein  
2 the generating results comprises:

3 applying the parser and the grammar rules to the  
4 query to produce a query canonical form; and

5 matching the query canonical form to the canonical  
6 non-terminal representation of the data in the inverse index.

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1 5. A computer program, residing on a computer-readable  
2 medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

3           receive a query;  
4           generate an inverse index of a collection of data;  
5   and  
6           generate results to the query in conjunction with  
7   the inverse index.

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1       6.    The computer program of claim 5 further comprising  
2   instructions for causing the computer to:  
3           store hierarchical information generated from the  
4   data in the inverse index; and  
5           apply a parser and grammar rules to the data to  
6   produce canonical non-terminal representations of the data in  
7   the inverse index.

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1       7.    The computer program of claim 6 further comprising  
2   instructions for causing the computer to:  
3           apply the parser and grammar rules to the query to  
4   generate a query canonical form; and  
5           match the query canonical form to the non-terminal  
6   representation of the data in the inverse index.

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